

but no press-gang should be allowed to go on board an American vessel till after it shall be found that there are more than their stipulated number on board, nor till after the master shall have refused to deliver the supernumeraries (to be named by himself) to the press officer who has come on board for that purpose, and even then, the American consul should be called in. (From Instructions to British Minister, 1792. F. VI., 76.)

IMPRESSMENT.—It is proposed, I observe, to register seamen and give them certificates of citizenship to protect them from foreign impressment. But these certificates will be lost in a thousand ways; a sailor will neglect to take his certificate; he is wet twenty times in a voyage; if he goes ashore without it, he is impressed; if with it, he gets drunk, it is lost, stolen from him, taken from him, and then the want of it gives authority to impress which does not exist now. After ten years' attention to the subject I have never been able to devise anything effectual but the circumstances of an American bottom to be made *ipso facto*, a protection for a number of seamen proportioned to her tonnage. (To William Giles, 1796. F. VII., 65.)

IMPRESSMENT.—Our particular and separate grievance is only the impressment of our citizens. We must sacrifice the last dollar and drop of blood to rid us of that badge of slavery; and it must rest with England alone to say whether it is worth eternal war, for eternal it must be if she holds to the wrong. She will probably find that the six thousand citizens she took from us by impressment have already cost her ten thousand guineas a man, and will cost her, in addition, the half of that annually, during the continuance of the war, besides the captures on the ocean, and the loss of our commerce. She might certainly find cheaper means of manning her fleet, or, if to be manned at this expense, her fleet will break her down. (To Mr. Crawford, 1815. C. VI, 418.)

INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

"Friends and Fellow-Citizens:

"Called upon to undertake the duties of the first executive office of our country, I avail myself of the presence of that por-